



## The Learning Connection

### Responsibilities are Shared by All

Everyone who is part of the Adult Learning Program has responsibilities for making the learning partnership a success.

Tutors are responsible for preparing meaningful learning activities and conducting sessions twice a week with their learners. Tutors are also responsible for providing both monthly reports and progress reports.

Learners are responsible for attending learning ses-

sions twice a week, doing their work, being attentive, and letting their tutors know if they don't understand something or need more information.

All of us are responsible for being on time, keeping appointments, and letting others know in advance if we need to miss a session.

The Adult Learning Program staff has recently written these and other responsibilities into documents that have been signed by new learners and tutors. Introducing the

"Tutor Responsibilities" and "Learner Responsibilities" help each new pair start with a good understanding of their duties and obligations to each other.

Now we would like to introduce these responsibilities to existing tutors and learners. Between now and the end of the calendar year, staff will be meeting with each tutor/learner pair to review the responsibilities and to sign the documents. We hope that you will find them to be as helpful as new learners and tutors have.

#### Dates to Remember:

- September 3—Closed for Labor Day
- September 4—First day for CHS
- September 13—Tutor Brown Bag 11:30 a.m.
- September 25—Book Club 6:00 p.m.
- October 6—San Diego Countywide Adult Learner Conference 9:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.
- October 11—Tutor Brown Bag 11:30 a.m.
- October 23—Book Club 6:00 p.m.

### Congratulations!

**Sofia C.**—getting her citizenship

**Lupe G.**—completing a course at MiraCosta College

**Abel G.**—Writer-to-Writer Challenge finalist

**Yulia A.**—getting hired

**LiLing C.**—publishing a poem

### Are You Preparing for an Exam?

Passing an exam is often required for important events in our lives like getting a degree or certificate, a better job, a license, or U.S. citizenship.

A free database called "Learn-A-Test" is now

available on the Carlsbad Library's website, [www.carlsbadlibrary.com](http://www.carlsbadlibrary.com). This resource has practice tests and on-line study guides for skills improvement, GED, TOEFL, U. S. citizenship, and many other situations.

If you would like more information about this, and a brief introduction to using it, please stop by the office and any staff member will be glad to help you.



Abel G. a finalist in the Writer to Writer Challenge

#### Book Return

*Tutors, If you have any unused workbooks, please bring them in to the office so we can recycle and let others use them. Thanks!*

# Our Year . . .

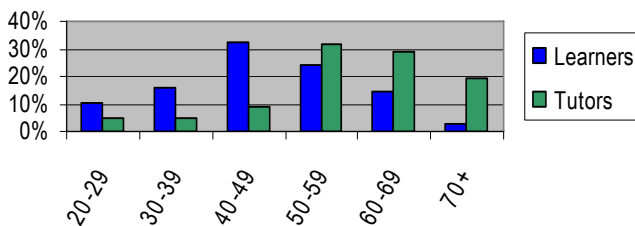
## A New Fiscal Year

Happy New Year! This might seem like a strange greeting this time of year, but it's appropriate for us as the Adult Learning Program is now in a new fiscal year.

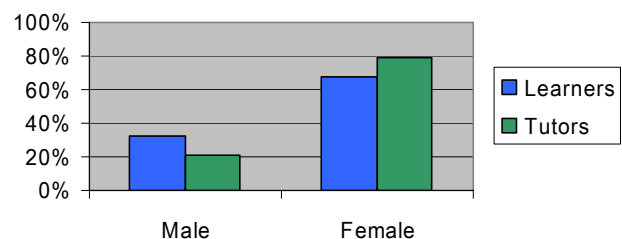
Last year was an exciting one for us. We saw increases in the number of tutors and learners, volunteer hours, and the number of small group classes offered. One hundred and eighteen tutors donated a total of 9,966 volunteer hours.

Although we think of this time as priceless, using Independent Sector's volunteer rate, the donated time is worth over \$187,000. Our learners—119 in all—received 5,300 hours of instruction. A record 77 learners are continuing their studies into the new year. Over 130 books were given to our learners. We also served 43 students as part of our partnership with Carlsbad High School.

**Our Ages by Percentage**



**Our Genders by Percentage**



## Learning Activities

The year also gave both learners and tutors the opportunity to participate in learning activities beyond their one-to-one sessions. Learners were able to participate in a number of small group classes, including computers, writing, math, and public speaking, many of which were taught by volunteers. Learners participated in our new Book Club, reading such selections as "The Wizard of Oz" and "Night." Tutors took the opportunity to participate in "brown bag" discussions with their peers and staff. Other events that brought tutors and learners together included our record-breaking participation in the *San Diego Union-Tribune* Race for Literacy, our first annual Holiday Open House, and our Annual Celebration. Tutors attended the READ/San Diego

Tutor Conference, learners participated in the San Diego Council on Literacy's Conference, and tutors and learners enjoyed the Southern California Library Literacy Network's (SCLLN) Tutor/Learner event. Staff members were featured presenters at both the Council's and SCLLN's conferences.

***"I am really proud of what I've accomplished so far. I have more confidence for the things I can do and am not as nervous as I was before."***

# ... In Review

## Learner Achievements and Contributions

We are especially proud of our learners' achievements. Eighty-seven percent of our adult learners met at least one literacy goal that they had set during the past year. These goals include reading a book; reading, writing, and sending email; getting a better job; and becoming a citizen.

Other learners were recognized for their outstanding contributions. Ramon G.

was selected to present at the San Diego Council on Literacy's Chairman's Circle event with his tutor Ann O' Neil. Robynne K. and Wil M. were among 22 adult learners throughout Southern California who attended the 6-month Henry Huffman Leadership Institute sponsored by the State Library. Five learners participated in the California Library Literacy Services' Writer to

Writer Challenge for Adult Learners. This annual event invites adult learners from library literacy programs throughout the state to write a letter to an author who has influenced their lives. Learner Abel G.'s letter to author Anna Fienberg was selected from over 140 entries as one of 12 finalists in the Intermediate Level of the challenge.

## Volunteers

We were also privileged to have 3 AmeriCorps volunteers, Geoff Armour, Ila Schmidt, and Curtis Luster, Sr., who dedicated hundreds of hours tutoring and performing outreach activities. Along with marketing volunteer Bastien Atterbury they staffed booths at many events including Fiesta del Barrio, Carlsbad 5000, Carlsbad Street Faire, and Carlsbad Triathlon. Thanks in a

large part to their efforts and our increased marketing for additional tutors, we have reduced our waiting list from over 20 learners to 5.

An honor went to fourteen-year Adult Learning Program tutor, Betty Groves, who was selected for the North County Philanthropy Council's volunteer award from all nominees in the City of Carlsbad.

***"The most rewarding thing about this program is seeing the expression on the learners' faces when they accomplish something that they never thought they could. That is something you could never be paid for."***

## Library Learning Center

One of the most significant developments was the start of construction on our new Library Learning Center located across the street from Holiday Park. The 11,000 square-foot building will house our program and the Centro de Información. The current plan is for

the construction to be complete in late spring or early summer of 2008. In the meantime, we ask for your patience as we spend our last year in our cramped location.

We are looking forward to another exciting year. We strive for everyone in the

program—learners and tutors alike—to feel safe, supported, and successful. We thank all of you for your dedication and commitment!



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## Newspapers and Magazines Now Available



Tutors and learners may now check out past issues of *National Geographic* and *News for You* from the Adult Learning Program. Simply take your selection to a staff member, and we'll check it out to you for three weeks. The current issue will remain on display. Enjoy this new service!

We also have several copies of *The North County Times* that are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Feel free to take a copy home from the basket in Classroom M.

## Thank You!

**Miguel P., Julie H., and Anete M.**—sweet plums

**Linda M.**—fabulous bulletin boards

**Dolores W.**—juicy peaches

**Betty G.**—flowers

**Betty P.**—pencils

**Alex A.**—baby bananas

**Wayne W.**—paper for Learning Connection

**Lory M.**—brownie bites

**Harriet N.**—Trail Mix bars

**Barbara M.**—See's candy

## Email Notification Offered by Carlsbad Library

The Carlsbad Library system now sends due date reminders and hold notices by email. If this service sounds appealing, stop by the office to fill out the form to get this started for you.



## Adult Tutor Brown Bag Sessions Add New Format

On Thursday, August 9, eleven tutors (a full house in our small classroom) attended a Brown Bag session led by staff member and book club coordinator, Erin Thomas. During the session Erin offered tips and techniques for introducing and using fiction with learners.

Tutors were introduced to books that have been read in the Book Club: *Seed Folks* by Paul Fleischman, *Grayson* by Lynne Cox, *The Wonderful*

*Wizard of Oz* by L. Frank Baum, *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie, and *Night* by Elie Wiesel.

Although the Adult Learning Program has had general-discussion brown bag sessions in the past, each future session will also cover a specific topic and provide useful tutor tips and techniques that you can apply in your very next learning session.

The Brown Bag meetings are planned for the second Thursday of each

month from 11:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. The guest speaker at the September 13 Brown Bag is Curtis Luster, Sr. This former learner will discuss his experiences with learning differences. There will also be time for question and answer and to see some multi-sensory resources.

Be sure to watch for announcements on future Brown Bag topics and make your reservations early for the limited spaces available.